

Please add the following claims:

33. A multi-component liquid filter as defined in claim 13, wherein said nonwoven web is charge-modified.

A? 34. A filter device as defined in claim 32, wherein said nonwoven web is charge-modified.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-2, 5-15, 23, and 28-33, including independent claims 1 and 23, are pending in the present application. In the Office Action, original claim 4 (now incorporated into independent claim 1) and independent claim 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,540,489 to Barnard. Barnard describes a three-staged mixed media filter within a single canister. For instance, as shown in Fig. 1, a container 10 includes a pre-filter 24 that may be a pleated paper member, a second filter 26 that is a spiral wound activated carbon member having charcoal on a paper backing, and a third filter 28 that is a closed-ended tube. (Col 4, lines 1-10).

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Barnard fails to disclose various limitations of present claims 1 and 23. For example, independent claim 1 requires that the pleated filter element contain a laminate having two or more layers of filter media that may provide improved filtration capability. Similarly, independent claim 23 requires that the filter element having surface contours contain a laminate having two or more layers of filter media. As an example, in one embodiment of the present invention, the

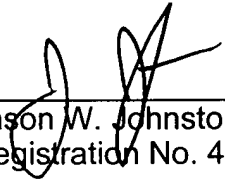
pleated filter element contains a modified layer laminated onto both the top and bottom of a layer containing activated carbon. (Appl. pg. 22). To the contrary, nowhere does Barnard disclose such a laminate material for a pleated filter element. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, Barnard fails to disclose one or more limitations of independent claims 1 and 23.

In addition, the above-cited reference was also cited to reject dependent claims 2, 5-15, and 28-33. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that at least for the reasons indicated above relating to corresponding independent claims 1 and 23, claims 2, 5-15, and 28-33 patentably define over the reference cited. However, Applicants also note that the patentability of dependent claims 2, 5-15, and 28-33 does not necessarily hinge on the patentability of independent claims 1 and 23. In particular, some or all of these claims may possess features that are independently patentable, regardless of the patentability of claims 1 and 23.

Thus, it is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Menon is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX A

1. (Amended) A multi-component liquid filter, comprising:

a first filter element defining a surface having a finite surface contact area, said first filter element being configured to selectively remove a first contaminant from a liquid when contacted therewith; and

a second filter element disposed in fluid communication with said first filter element, said second filter element having a [generally non-planar] pleated surface, said [generally non-planar] pleated surface having a surface contact area greater than said surface contact area of said first filter element, wherein said pleated surface comprises pleats having an average pitch from about 0.0625 to about 5 inches, said second filter element being configured to selectively remove a second contaminant from a liquid when contacted therewith, wherein said second filter element contains a laminate having two or more layers of filter media. → from 4.

5. (Amended) A multi-component liquid filter as defined in claim [3] 1, wherein said [pleated surface comprises] pleats have [having] an average pitch from about 0.125 to about 1 inch.

6. (Amended) A multi-component liquid filter as defined in claim [3] 1, wherein said [pleated surface comprises] pleats are disposed longitudinally in a direction transverse to fluid flow through said second filter element.

8. (Amended) A multi-component liquid filter as defined in claim 7, wherein said first and said second filter elements are generally cylindrical, said generally cylindrical filter elements being arranged in fluid communication within said chamber coaxial with respect to a longitudinal centerline of said chamber.

12. (Amended) A multi-component liquid filter as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one of said filter elements comprises a material selected from the group consisting of microfiber glass, a charge-modified material, a nonwoven web, a bed of granular material, a cellulosic material, [a particulate laminate,] activated carbon, airlaid composites, and combinations thereof.

13. (Amended) A multi-component liquid filter as defined in claim 1, wherein [at least one of said filter elements comprises a particulate] said laminate has [having] a layer containing activated carbon laminated to at least one other layer containing a nonwoven web.

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23. (Amended) A multi-component liquid filter device, comprising:

a chamber;

a first generally cylindrical filter element, and a second generally cylindrical filter element, said filter elements arranged in fluid communication within said chamber coaxial with respect to a longitudinal centerline of said chamber;

one of said first and second filter elements having inner and outer circumferential surfaces defined by a generally constant radius therearound so as to define generally continuous planar circumferential filtering surfaces for a liquid passing radially through said filter element;

the other of said respective filter elements having inner and outer circumferential surfaces defined by surface contours such that said circumferential surfaces have a non-constant radius therearound so as to define a generally discontinuous non-planar circumferential filtering surface with a greater effective filtering surface area compared to a continuous planar filtering surface for a liquid passing radially through said other

filter element, wherein said filter element having surface contours contains a laminate → *new*
having two or more layers of filter media; and

wherein liquid flows radially through said filter elements within said chamber such that different contaminants are removed by said respective filter elements prior to the liquid flowing from said chamber.

31. (Amended) A filter device as defined in claim 23, wherein at least one of said filter elements comprises a material selected from the group consisting of microfiber glass, a charge-modified material, a nonwoven web, a bed of granular material, a cellulosic material, [a particulate laminate,] activated carbon, airlaid composites, and combinations thereof.

32. (Amended) A filter device as defined in claim 23, wherein [at least one of said filter elements comprises a particulate] said laminate has [having] a layer containing activated carbon laminated to at least one other layer containing a nonwoven web.